

Vital Voices Joins the U.S Department of State and FORTUNE Most Powerful Women Summit to Invest in Global Businesswomen

A Lebanese woman –Pamela Antaki- selected in 2009

Vital Voices, the U.S. Department of State and FORTUNE Most Powerful Women Summit welcomed 32 international women leaders to the United States for the FORTUNE/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Partnership April 26-May 22, 2009. The program aims to invest knowledge and resources into emerging women leaders and expose them to best practices in the United States' public and private sectors. Now in its fourth year, this program has had tremendous impact on communities across the globe. Alumnae have returned home to achieve greater leadership positions in their businesses and to mentor more than 1,000 young women in their home countries.

The month-long program is divided into three phases: a four-day orientation in Washington DC, a three-week mentorship in one of several U.S. cities and a two-day closing program in New York City. American embassies select each participant for their professional accomplishments, ambition and vision while FORTUNE Most Powerful Women Summit matches the international women leaders with FORTUNE 500 top female executives. In partnership with the Department of State and FORTUNE Most Powerful Women Summit, Vital Voices organizes the program and offers best practices for mentoring.

This year's participants met high-level women leaders in business, government and politics, including Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verwee; Managing Director of the World Bank, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo Iweala; Founder and Former CEO of Oxygen Media, Geraldine Laybourne. Additionally, participants engaged in leadership, communications and media training. At the close of the program, the international women leaders felt poised to grow their businesses and to pay their experience forward by giving back to others in their home countries.

With support from ExxonMobil, Vital Voices will distribute six small grants to alumnae to implement projects benefiting women in their home communities. In addition, Vital Voices will offer partnership to all alumnae who seek to promote positive change for women in their home communities.

For the past 3 years, 4 women have been selected to be representing Lebanon. This year, Pamela Antaki was mentored at the Dow Chemical Company by Julie Fasone Holder- Senior Vice President. Antaki refers to this program as a unique experience and a once in a life time opportunity. "Within three weeks I have been exposed to so much information, made a lot of connections and friends... This program has truly enlightened me. I truly encourage potential Lebanese candidates to contact the Lebanese US embassy to join next year program"